United Nations

Daily Highlights

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T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding visits southern Lebanese town of Kafra damaged in incidents of last Thursday, 20 February; holds meeting in Tel Aviv with Israeli Minister of Defence Moshe Arens.

- Secretary-General addresses Summit for Economic Advancement of Rural Women in Geneva; meets with President of Swiss Confederation to discuss, among other things, possibility of sending small Swiss police force to Yugoslavia.

- Security Council recommends to General Assembly admission of San Marino to United Nations membership.

- Preparatory Commission for Seabed Authority and Sea-law Tribunal begins tenth session at Kingston.

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Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding today visited the Nepalese battalion's zone of the United Nations operation in southern Lebanon (UNIFIL), and the village of Kafra which was severely damaged in the incidents of last Thursday, 20 February. He was accompanied by General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, commander of UNIFIL.

Following a telephone conversation with Mr. Goulding, Spokesman François Giuliani announced that on the way to the village, the Under-Secretary-General and his party had met a group of Hizbollah members. There was a brief argument, but when the group was informed of Mr. Goulding's identity and his purpose in visiting Kafra, he was allowed to proceed, although one member of the group fired some shots in the air. Once in Kafra, Mr. Goulding toured the village under the guidance of a mixed group of Hizbollah and Amal members and they inspected the heavy damage inflicted to the mosque and schools, as well as the destruction of some 70 houses.

According to the Spokesman, the Under-Secretary-General then returned to Naqoura and drove to Tel Aviv for a meeting with the Minister of Defence of Israel, Moshe Arens. Mr. Goulding and the Minister discussed the situation in

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southern Lebanon as well as last Thursday's incident, and Mr. Goulding told him "how in the view of the United Nations, peace and security can be restored in the region through the implementation of resolution 425 (1978) and full Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory". The Spokesman said the discussions were "amicable", but that it was not "possible to bridge the gap between the two positions".

Mr. Goulding will be returning to New York on Thursday to report to the Secretary-General.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali this morning opened the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Summit has brought together the wives of the Heads of State and Government from nearly 50 countries, and the heads of several United Nations and interregional agencies.

In his opening address, Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated that an essential part of the process of transition from the cold war era to an era of cooperation would be to ensure balanced economic and social development and equality of opportunity for women and men. He welcomed the convening of the Summit, noting that women's contribution was crucial both within their immediate communities and for the success of the overall development process.

Before the ceremony today, the Secretary-General met with the President of the Swiss Confederation, René Felber. They had a tour d'horizon of the world situation and exchanged views on Cambodia, Somalia, Western Sahara and Yugoslavia. On the question of peace-keeping operations in Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General and Mr. Felber discussed the possibility of sending a small Swiss police force there.

Later in the day, Mr. Boutros-Ghali was scheduled to meet the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Abdul Wakil. He will also meet with his Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Benon Sevan, who will brief him on his latest round of talks in the region.

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The Security Council this morning recommended to the General Assembly that the Republic of San Marino be admitted to United Nations membership. The action was taken without a vote.

The Council also decided to waive the time-limit set forth in its rules of procedure, so that the recommendation can be presented to the General Assembly at the resumption of its forty-sixth session on 2 March, together with its recommendation to admit eight Republics of the former Soviet Union for United Nations membership.

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The Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea began its tenth session yesterday in the Jamaican capital of Kingston by approving its programme of work for the next three weeks.

During the session, the Preparatory Commission will continue to elaborate regulations to govern the mining of manganese nodules from the international seabed, as well as to define administrative structures and rules for the two institutions to be created under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea -- the Authority and the Tribunal.

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